Welfare measures for Indian Migrant Labourers

420. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still finding delay in making insurance cover for workers going abroad for employment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed Indian overseas workers welfare fund has come into force;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the welfare measures taken by Government for Indian Migrant Labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. A compulsory Insurance scheme known as the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana has already been introduced w.e.f. 25.12.2003 which is applicable to the citizens of India who are required to obtain emigration clearance for employment abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The proposal to constitute an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund was contained in the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which lapsed due to dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha.

(f) The Emigration Act, 1983 regulates the emigration of Indian workers going abroad for employment with a view to protecting their welfare. Introduction of the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana is also a welfare measure for the emigrant workers.

Provision of employment

421. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of jobless in India grew by more than three times in 10 years from 13.8 million in 1991 to 44.5 million in 2001 as per the recently released census figures;